Progress report on Centrally-aided schemes

1336. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had sought by November 15,2003 the detailed progress report in respect of the Centrally-aided schemes in the various States, especially where the assembly polls had been announced;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the requisite information was received in time and if so, the utilization status of the Central aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c)The information asked in respect of all the States is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

CAS for customers

†1337. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAS would be beneficial to the customers;

(b) whether CAS would be cheaper than the cable system;

(c) whether viewing of programmes of various channels would not be possible without Set Top Box; and

(d) whether the people who are unable to install Set Top Boxes would be deprived of viewing various channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) CAS would be beneficial for consumers for the following reasons:-

(i) Government has specified Rs. 72/- (Plus taxes) as the maximum price of basic service tier, consisting of not less than 30 Free-To-Air (FTA) channels of different genres of entertainment, news, sports, children's programmes and music. Additional free-to-air

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.